

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Office Action, May 8, 2001, ¶¶ 5-6. The Examiner has indicated that claims 13-29 are allowable. Id. ¶ 7.

On May 30, 2001, the Applicant's representatives conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner to discuss the pending rejection of claims 1-12. Agreement was reached with the Examiner on an amendment to claim 1 to traverse the § 101 rejection, and the amendment was requested in a Response to Final Office Action filed that same day. However, in an advisory action mailed June 15, 2001, the Examiner indicated that the requested amendment would not be entered because it was deemed not to overcome the rejection.

In order to expedite allowance of claims 13-29, the Applicant has hereby requested that rejected claims 1-12 be canceled from the present application, without prejudice, to permit the Applicant to pursue the subject matter of those claims in a divisional application. Upon entry of the requested amendment, claims 13-29 would remain in the application. Since those claims have already been deemed allowable, the Applicant respectfully submits that the requested amendment would place the present application in condition for allowance.

The Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Applicant hereby authorizes the Office to charge any fees or credit any overpayments arising from this communication to Kenyon & Kenyon's Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 3, 2001

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Appendix

CLEAN VERSION OF PENDING CLAIMS (assuming entry of requested amendment)

13. A computer-implemented method for automating administrative procedures in a medical office, said method comprising the steps of:

maintaining an office automation system including a database containing provider information and patient information;

automatically generating administrative reports from the office automation system, populating fields in the reports with information from the database where appropriate; and

managing performance of one or more administrative tasks by an off-site service provider, including managing an electronic information exchange between the off-site service provider and the office automation system and generating reports on tasks assigned to the off-site service provider.

14. The computer-implemented method of claim 13, wherein said step of managing performance of one or more administrative tasks by an off-site service provider comprises managing off-site tape transcription.

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15. The computer-implemented method of claim 14, further comprising the step of maintaining information relating to a current workload for each of a plurality of off-site transcriptionists.

16. The computer-implemented method of claim 15, further comprising the step of assigning a transcription tape to an off-site transcriptionist based upon the current workload information.

17. The computer-implemented method of claim 14, further comprising the step of

receiving an electronic transmission of a transcribed report from an off-site transcriptionist.

18. The computer-implemented method of claim 13, wherein said method is provided as a subscription service.

19. A storage medium containing a set of instructions for execution by a computer, the set of instructions serving to automate administrative tasks in a medical office, said set of instructions comprising instructions for:

- maintaining an office automation system including a database containing provider information and patient information;

- automatically generating administrative reports from the office automation system, populating fields in the reports with information from the database where appropriate; and

- managing performance of one or more administrative tasks by an off-site service provider, including managing an electronic information exchange between the off-site service provider and the office automation system and generating reports on tasks assigned to the off-site service provider.

20. The storage medium of claim 19, wherein said storage medium comprises a portable storage device.

21. The storage medium of claim 19, wherein said storage medium comprises a memory of the computer.

22. A computer-implemented subscription service for automating administrative procedures in a medical office, said subscription service comprising:

- maintaining a database at a subscriber service center, said database containing information relating to a plurality of subscribers;

- providing each of said subscribers with a computer-based office automation system configured to exchange data electronically with said subscriber service center;

receiving at said subscriber service center a request generated by a subscriber's office automation system for performance of an office administration task;

performing the requested office administration task at said subscriber service center;
and

electronically transmitting information relating to performance of the office administration task back to said computer-based office automation system.

23. The computer-implemented subscription service of claim 22, wherein the requested office administration task comprises transcription of a dictation.

24. The computer-implemented subscription service of claim 23, wherein the information relating to performance of the office administration task comprises a computer file containing a transcription of the dictation.

25. The computer-implemented subscription service of claim 22, wherein the information relating to performance of the office administration task comprises status information.

26. The computer-implemented subscription service of claim 22, further comprising the step of generating a report from the computer-based office automation system using the information relating to performance of the office administration task.

27. The computer-implemented subscription service of claim 22, wherein the requested office administration task comprises chart preparation.

28. The computer-implemented subscription service of claim 22, wherein the requested office administration task comprises report generation.

29. The computer-implemented subscription service of claim 22, wherein the requested office administration task comprises forms generation.